

BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM EUROPE.

THE LIBERALS ORGANIZING—REIGNITION OF THE PARSONS MINISTRY—THE ORANGE AND CATHOLIC RIVALRY.

London, July 14.—Following the example of the Tories, the Liberal party are now organizing. Numbers of meetings in favor of the disestablishment of the Irish Church have been advertised to be held in various parts of the Kingdom.

Paris, July 13.—All the Ministers have resigned. The resignations of Bismarck and La Vallée have been accepted by the Emperor, and the other members of the Cabinet remain. The new Ministry will be a transitional one. Emile Ollivier refuses a portfolio for the present, but will probably accept in the end. The Radicals are indignant at the prorogation of the legislative body.

Belfast, July 14.—Serious riots occurred between Catholics and Orangemen on the 13th. Windows in many dwellings were smashed. One Catholic schoolhouse was entirely gutted, and another badly damaged. Several rioters were wounded, and a policeman, while endeavoring to restore order, had three ribs broken by a stone thrown by one of the mob.

London, July 14.—In Lurgan, Ireland, on the 13th, an Orange mob were pelted with stones. They retaliated by utterly destroying seven houses, occupied by Catholics. The wood-work of the buildings and the furniture were carried into the streets and burned. At Newry the Orange Hall was attacked by parties of Catholics, who were ordered by the occupants, three of the Catholics being severely wounded.

FROM WASHINGTON.

THE TENNESSEE ABOLITION OF PUBLICATION—THE TENNESSEE ABOLITION OF PUBLICATION—THE TENNESSEE ABOLITION OF PUBLICATION.

Washington, July 14.—The argument in the Tennessee case to remove the case from the equity commission to the Supreme Court was concluded to-day. As there are important questions involved in the petition for habeas corpus, the Attorney-General has entered into written stipulations with petitioner's counsel, to put the question in such form as may be considered and determined by the United States Supreme Court next October. The present application to the Chief Justice is to remain suspended. The President has authorized the Attorney-General to say that no sentence of the military commission will be executed before the final determination of the Supreme Court. This meets the approval of the Chief Justice.

The indications are that there will be another and a heavy reduction of the public debt during this month. Customs and internal revenue receipts favorable.

Executive mansion, owing to the absence of the President, is entirely deserted by all officers of any grade.

Edward D. J. Holt, of Indiana, has been appointed Consul to Santiago de Cuba.

The Postoffice Department has ordered from Mexico depositions by Indians who represent the mails, and killed and wounded the officials.

An accident has occurred at Railway Station, on the Pacific Railroad, by which two persons were killed and two injured.

Thermometer here to-day at 4 P. M. stood at 100.

The presidential party arrived at Fort Monroe to-day, remained long enough to be saluted, and left for Long Branch.

The mechanical operations of the chief engineer's department of the United States might have been suspended for a few weeks in order to place new boilers in. It will have no effect on the resumption of specie payment.

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

REFUSE OF THE SPANISHS UNDER GENERAL TRITTO.

Washington, July 16.—The Cubans here have advised that the forces under Quintero, captured a scouting party near San Miguel, sent out by General Letona, and numbering seventy-five men. Three hundred Cubans who were encamped on the Sagua Grande River, near a town of the same name, were attacked by a body of Spanish de under the command of General Tritto, who were three times repulsed, and compelled to retire, leaving a portion of their baggage and killed upon the field. The Cuban loss was thirty-five killed and wounded. An engagement was also reported at La Esperanza, in which the Spanish troops were defeated.

Under the direction of the volunteer Junta, the property of Cubans suspected of sympathy with the insurrection is being seized and confiscated, families are driven from their houses, and their houses given up to pillage.

New York, July 16.—A special, dated Havana, July 12, via Key West, says that General Pooello, at the head of three hundred Spanish marines, was attacked by the patriote near Baga, a small town situated on the bay near as Nueva, and the marines were compelled to retire to the latter named place. General Pooello and several marines were killed.

FROM VIRGINIA.

EDUCATION OF THE NEGROES—GENERAL LEE IN THE LITERARY KIDNAPING OF GENERAL CUSTIS LEE—VISIT OF THE GERMAN KINGING SOCIETIES OF NEW YORK TO RICHMOND—DEATH FROM SUNSTROKE.

Richmond, July 16.—A telegram from Lexington, to-day, states that the State Educational Convention, after an exciting discussion regarding methods for the education of the colored people, tabled the subject until the next annual meeting.

The convention has decided to establish an educational journal, in the week of which General Lee has taken fifty shares.

FROM TEXAS.

Galveston, July 16.—Advices from San Antonio to-day report the Guadalupe River higher than ever before known. Bridges, factories and dwellings have been swept away. No lives lost. The Brazos is rising, and the Colorado subsiding.

ANOTHER RAILROAD SLAUGHTER.

New York, July 16.—The Erie train which left New York at 6:30 on Thursday evening, collided with a freight train, and six cars were burned. Nine persons were killed, six of whom were burned to death. A partial list of those injured reports no Southerners among them.

THE CHINESE MOVEMENT.

Memphis, July 16.—The several committees have reported, and an immigration society with offices in the principal Southern cities has been recommended.

THE BLUE RIDGE RAILROAD RING.

How a Ten Million Dollar Contract was Made.

INSIDE HISTORY OF THE WHOLE TRANSACTION.

GOVERNOR SCOTT DEMANDS SIX MILLIONS MORE!

THE NAMES OF THE CONTRACTORS AND THE AMOUNT OF THE BIDS—WILL THE RAILROAD BE BUILT—THE COST OF THE WORK—WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

COLUMBIA, S. C., FRIDAY, JULY 15.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEWS.

I know that your paper has supported the Blue Ridge Railroad through thick and thin; but an article upon the Asheville and Spartanburg Railroad, which I read in The News a short time ago, encourages me to believe that you will not refuse to expose the huge job which has been devised in connection with the Blue Ridge Railroad. My information comes from a first-rate source. The statements I make can be proved to be true, and will convince the people that the Blue Ridge Railroad Ring may hold up its head by the side of the great Whiskey Ring, and not lose by the comparison. I believe that the whole scheme has but one object—to put money in the pocket of Mr. S. C. Scott, the so-called Governor of South Carolina. Who would be care if eight or ten millions be added to the State debt? All that he cares for is to make his wife the rich and shine, and he will do it by any means.

CALLING FOR PROPOSALS.

I need not remind you that the Legislature in September last, passed a bill authorizing the guarantee of four million of dollars for the completion of the Blue Ridge Railroad, and that at the meeting of the company held lately in Charleston it was determined to make the principal and interest of the guaranteed bonds payable in coin. About the end of June advertisements were published in the State papers, and in the Northern and Western papers, calling upon responsible persons to come forward and contract for building the road from Anderson to Knoxville, a distance of one hundred and fifty-two miles, payment to be made in the form of bonds. Colonel Low, the chief engineer, was to have plans and specifications ready, and the bids were to be opened at Columbia on July 8.

The Chief Engineer was very close and gave no information as to what his estimate of the cost of building the road was; yet, queerly enough, it turned out afterwards that the bid of one contractor was in excess of a little above, or a little below, the estimate of the Chief Engineer, that the total bid was just about the same.

OPENING OF THE BIDS.

When the bids came the bidders, or their representatives, met in Governor Scott's office at Columbia, and it was found that bids had been submitted by the following persons: J. M. Christy & Co., Criswell, Patterson & Sellers; Dudley, Barwell & Co., J. A. Hunt, of North Carolina; D. Tyler & Co., of Pennsylvania; B. D. Hasell, of New York; and J. D. Champlin, of New York, and one other. All the bidders named were responsible persons, and could guarantee the fulfillment of their contracts. The lowest bid for the work was, in round numbers, \$7,500,000, and the highest \$10,000,000. This last was the bid of Criswell & Co. There was one higher bid, but it was understood to have been put in only that Criswell's might not be the highest.

MAKING THE BARGAIN.

When the bids had been exposed, Governor Scott said he found that it would take at least \$8,000,000 to complete the road, and he could only command \$4,000,000. It would not do to spend any of this, as it was his intention to apply to the Legislature to increase the guarantee to the full amount required. [The engineer's estimate was, I think, \$8,500,000.] This caused the contractors to prick their ears; one of them, however, was in the secret. Mr. McDuffie, representing Criswell & Co., came forward and said that he had known the views of the Governor, and had so arranged his bid as to advance the company at once \$800,000 to pay off the outstanding liabilities, and that he would carry on the work for nine months, at a cost of about \$1,000,000, without touching the bonds.

The other contractors, very properly objected to this way of doing business. They said that they had not known what Scott's views were, and asked to be allowed to modify their bids, so as to be able to offer the same advances. Scott could not refuse this. The contractors revised their bids and submitted them afresh, Criswell & Co.'s being still, of the bona fide bids, the highest. All the contractors were then bowed out, except Criswell & Co., who seemed to occupy permanently the Governor's back room. When the uninitiated were out of the way, there was a conference between Scott and Criswell & Co. After some talk they agreed to reduce their bid to about \$9,000,000, which was accepted. There were other bids as responsible in every way, at \$8,000,000 and less, but the \$9,000,000 bid was accepted. So Scott in partnership with Criswell & Co. has secured a contract with the bidders at \$7,500,000 and \$9,000,000.

THE PRICE OF THE WORK.

Now let us look at the prices at which the work was proposed to be done.

The estimates for earthwork, per cubic yard, ranged from 26 to 45 cents. Criswell & Co.'s price was 40. [When there is any bid at a higher price than this, it may be set down to the account of the "covering bid" put in to prevent Criswell & Co. being at the top.]

For grubbing and clearing, per acre, the bids were from \$80 to \$175. Criswell's bid was \$100.

For loose rock excavations, the bids were from 50 cents to \$1. Criswell's bid was 70 cents.

For solid rock the bids ranged from \$1 75 to \$1 90—the last being Criswell's.

For tunnel excavation the bids ranged from \$9 75 to \$16 per yard. Criswell's bid was \$15 50.

For first-class masonry the bids were from \$12 50 to \$20. Criswell's bid was \$18.

Now I come to the cream of it. For spikes and chairs per pound, respectively, the bids were from 7 and 7 1/2 cents to 14 and 15 cents. These spikes and chairs are worth about 5 and a half cents a pound in New York.

For railroad iron, the bids were from \$100 to \$150 a ton. Criswell's bid was \$135. This iron was to be loaded and delivered at Anderson for ninety-two dollars a ton. Criswell & Co. make a profit of only forty-three dollars on each ton of railroad iron. DON'T THEY LOVE THERE? WOULD AS A PROFIT OF ABOUT \$500,000.

IS IT NOT A JOKE?

Now I ask you, Mr. Editor, is not this a huge job? First of all we were told that the road would cost \$6,000,000 to complete it. Now it is to cost \$9,000,000. The Legislature has given \$4,000,000, (besides the \$4,000,000 already spent), and as to be asked to give \$5,000,000 more. Responsible men offered to build the road for \$7,500,000, yet the \$9,000,000 bid was accepted. Here is \$1,500,000 thrown away—absolutely thrown away. Who can tell where the demand for money will stop? Will Scott & Co. ever be satisfied? Why not spend \$20,000,000, and then the commissions will be twice as large? I say that the whole business is a job from beginning to end. It must be stopped, and I call on you, sir, to expose it to the eyes of the people. Let them see the way in which they are being bamboozled. Let us see whether the Legislature will give Scott & Co. the spending of thirty more millions in which they have no share.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

It is proper for me to add that Scott alone is responsible for making this \$9,000,000 contract. Mr. George S. Cameron, the banker of your city, and General Harrison, the President of the Blue Ridge Railroad, who with Scott are members of the Executive Committee, did all that men could do to have the lowest responsible bid accepted. They were powerless. Scott for the State, and Mayor Pillsbury for Charleston, represent about nineteen-twentieths of the stock of the company, and can work things as they please. The other directors of the road can do nothing. Will the people leave so rotten a concern the better? They cannot afford to be associated with Scott, who misleads all the influence and enjoys all the sweets, while they must share the public responsibility.

Apologizing for the length of this letter, I am, &c., &c.,

THE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Meeting of the Executive Committee—Arrangements for the Fair in November—Annual Orator—Premium List—Sorghum Sugar Refinery—Chinese Labor—International Exhibition in London.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

COLUMBIA, July 15.—The session of the Executive Committee of the State Agricultural and Mechanical Society closed late last night, after a hard day's work. It was held in the office of Architect Lee, and was harmonious throughout. An official synopsis is to be published at once. The points made by the committee are six: 1. The issue of premium lists. 2. Arrangement with the City Council of Columbia to provide place and buildings for the fair. 3. Election of an annual orator. 4. Appointment of a committee on Chinese labor. 5. Report on sorghum raising. 6. A communication from the British Colonization Society.

The value of the premium lists to be issued is at least liberal. Four thousand dollars, with a margin of two thousand more, is ample for the look and buildings for the first annual fair to be held on Wednesday, the 10th of November, are to be determined and arranged by the City Council of Columbia. The open space in front of the University campus is spoken of as probably the place; and the College Hall, now in the use of the Federal troops of the post, may be secured for the occasion. Other buildings, sheds, stables and booths, that may be needed, will be put up to such extent as the prospects seem to demand when the time approaches. The name of John C. Breckinridge will be received with universal favor, and is a good point secured.

After their indispensable preliminaries to the annual fair, there comes the consideration of the question of Chinese labor—a question second in importance only to the Agricultural Society itself. The committee appointed to gather information consists of earnest, thinking, and progressive men—Messrs. W. M. Lawton, of Beaufort, William Wallace, of Columbia, and M. L. Bonham, of Edgewood—men who represent the three sections of the State. They are to prepare for the society all the facts and details necessary to enable every planter, whether of rice, cotton or grain, to decide whether he will employ the Chinese laborer or not. It is to be hoped that this committee will see the necessity of giving to the public this information, even before the meeting of the society in November. The necessity for this lies in the fact that whether they report or not, the Chinese are coming, and will come. Already private individuals are taking steps to introduce them; and so after the disgust of planters with the business and inefficiency of the negro, to say nothing of his in-lance that they are not going to miss an opportunity of supplying his place on the farms with an industrious and frugal Mongol. This, I am aware, is the feeling of hundreds of our people, and I know personally that these views are represented in the committee.

The favorable report of the committee appointed to examine the sorghum syrup and sugar works, at Greenville, points out a valuable direction for labor. It is found that the syrup-refining process is good; but the committee does not see that sugar can be made of sorghum syrup at all by this process of Mr. Passmore. In his circular Dr. Passmore announces that sugar can be made from some varieties of sorghum syrup at a cost of from five to eight cents a pound; but the committee did not witness anything of that sort, and this report leaves the impression on the mind that this sugar-making process could not be exhibited to them. It is not a humbug, why was this?

The invitation from the secretaries of the "Workmen's International Exhibition," to be held in London next year, to this State to contribute to the exhibition, is a matter of some interest but very little importance at this juncture.

THE OCEANIC REPORT.

Colonel D. Wyatt Allen, the secretary of the society, has prepared for publication in the newspapers of the State the following official synopsis of the proceedings:

A general report, presenting the financial condition of the society, was first investigated and discussed, and the following resolution adopted:

Resolved, That the secretary of the South Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical Society be and he is to prepare a report on the condition of the society, with its great live of \$500,000 of people.

The San Francisco Dispatch thinks this a remarkably frank expression, and says:

Heretofore it has been denied that the Chinese were likely to increase the numbers of any of the people of the South, and that they were returning home about as fast as they came, and hence all alarm on the subject was quite unnecessary. This was done to quiet popular discontent, but all the while plans have been perfecting to stimulate immigration from that source and introduce those people as permanent elements in our population. It is less than ten years since the first Chinese came to this country, and now the Chinese are considered as numerous. It was a heavy draught upon a population of fifty millions, but it is nothing compared to what will flow in from China, with its great live of 450,000,000 of people.

aid amount to be increased to \$6000 should the financial subscriptions warrant it.

A member from Charleston offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the secretary be instructed to publish, for the information of the public, the communication submitted to this committee by the British and Foreign Committee, Mr. J. P. Walker, and that the committee respectfully commend the subject of the "Workmen's International Exhibition," to the attention of the society.

Resolved, That the details of the local organization, which the projectors of the exhibition invite, be referred to the society at its next meeting.

THE COMMUNICATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

BETHNEN CONSULTANTS.

CHARLESTON, July 14, 1869.

Wm. M. Lawton, Vice-President of the "Workmen's International and Mechanical Society."

Sir—Hearing that you are about to extend a meeting of the South Carolina State Agricultural and Mechanical Society, and that you are to be held at London in 1870, I have the honor, also, to enclose a copy of a letter addressed by the British and Foreign Committee, Mr. J. P. Walker, and that the committee respectfully commend the subject of the "Workmen's International Exhibition," to the attention of the society.

The matter in charge are now fully set forth. It is a matter of some importance, and it is to be held at London in 1870. I have the honor, also, to enclose a copy of a letter addressed by the British and Foreign Committee, Mr. J. P. Walker, and that the committee respectfully commend the subject of the "Workmen's International Exhibition," to the attention of the society.

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THE WAR IN CUBA.

Reception of De Rodas—Review of the Volunteers—Release of Political Prisoners—Temper of the New Captain-General—Confiscation—Particulars of the Execution of the Filibusters.

The Havana correspondent of the New York Times, writing under date of July 7, says:

Last Sunday was a gala day for Havana, and the principal element in the merriment has been a man named as the magnificent review which took place, as the friends of Cuban independence were charmed. Whatever our sympathies may be, the only thing that is to be regretted is that the review was not held on a more favorable day.

Notice of a review of the volunteer forces by General de Rodas having been given out by the newspapers, the city was in a state of excitement, and the volunteers were to pass, while immense numbers of spectators distributed themselves along the route to be taken, and extending for over a mile, and the only thing that was to be regretted is that the review was not held on a more favorable day.

On the same day, upwards of 2000 men, infantry, cavalry and a battery of artillery—over twelve hundred in all—were reviewed by General de Rodas, and the review was a magnificent one.

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